

I am greatly concerned with recent trends in media ownership as well as partisan newscasts masquerading as balanced and objective. Actions by huge broadcast conglomerates like Sinclair and Clear Channel represent a real and serious threat to dissemination of information, diversity of viewpoint, and ultimately the legitimacy of our very democracy.

The immediate issue I am contacting you about is Sinclair's intention of broadcasting a blatantly partisan program under the guise of legitimate news. The upcoming program 'investigating' John Kerry's statements about the atrocities committed in Vietnam are obviously motivated by partisan interests and the timing of the broadcast, being so immediately close to the election, should cause it to be regarded not as news, but as the political campaign propaganda it truly is.

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.